

ry in this country is as high as for his patriotism and eloquence. I have no hesitation in saying that I should deem it unjust to myself, and highly improper, to admit in the least degree of my own weakness for the purpose of attacking any one, or that I could form a scheme for the purpose of attacking any one, or that I had done any thing towards forming a scheme for violence in this affair. With what occurred some time ago, I am satisfied. What occurred to-day, I attach very little importance to. I never make attacks on any member of the Senate; but I simply stand prepared to defend myself against dangers whenever they exhibit themselves. I shall seek, for reasons known to honorable Senators, no further remedy than the present hour affords, in connection with this affair. Yet I stand on ground that would compel me, as a man of honor, to do and perform whatever I might be invited to do on that field.

I suppose there must be action on the proposition of the Senator from North Carolina, before I can proceed with my remarks on the general question.

Mr. DICKINSON. That my own action may not be misunderstood, I wish to say a word. I have been a member of this body for six years, and my own course in this matter, by those who know me, will be well understood. I called the attention of the Chair to the business before the Senate; and, on account of a remark made by the Senator from Missouri that it was not to be discussed, I allowed me to say that my object was to call Senators to their places, and to restore immediate order in the chamber. I had no expectation or desire that this matter was to be overlooked. It is altogether too grave an affair, and I concur entirely in the motion of the Senator from Wisconsin, and his suggestion as to the propriety of investigating this affair. So much for my own course.

Mr. BENTON. I have just a word for the Senator from New York, which I should throw in here. When I saw that the Senator called to order, it struck me that he desired to proceed with business as if nothing had happened, and I did not choose that the subject should be passed over quite so lightly as that.

Mr. HALE. A single remark on the course I have pursued. I certainly have no personal feelings to gratify; none in the least. I do not know that there is a human being in the city against whom I have just cause for enmity and difference of feeling. I have no quarrel with any man here, and before had a proper occasion to say, that from the hard knocks which passed between the Senator from Mississippi, soon after his entrance into the Senate, and which formed the subject of newspaper comment at the time, if any suppose there is not the best feelings between them they are mistaken. Very soon after that—thereafter, I cannot say—I met the Senator, and there is no gentleman, either of the Senate or the House, to whom I have been more indebted for the exercise of kindness and courtesy, or with whom I have had more pleasant intercourse, than the Senator from Mississippi.

I deem this statement due simply, from the nature of the suggestions I threw out when I was up before. This thing cannot be smoothed. We cannot, like the ostrich, imagine that by shutting our eyes we are concealed from the whole world. The galleries were filled with spectators; every body saw what transpired, and the news of this transaction is already traveling all over the country. If I have been unwise to the remotest border of the republic. And can we expect to conceal the fact now that menaces have been used and arms exhibited within the American Senate? It is idle. Nor should we shut our ears to the fact that Madame Rumor, with her hundred mouths, will magnify the occurrence tenfold. It is not new to the country, and it has not been rumored in the city of St. Louis that several Senators are dead and weltering in their blood on the floor of the Senate. That is not an extravagant supposition. And it was for the purpose not only of vindicating the character of the Senate, but of setting history right, and of informing the public exactly what took place in the Senate, that I came forward. I was happy to see seconded by the Senators from Wisconsin and North Carolina.

In conclusion, I beg most sincerely that, in the event of the appointment of such a committee, although I first suggested it, I may not be put on it myself.

Mr. BORLAND. I was well aware, as the gentleman has informed us, that the eyes of the world were upon the Senate, and that all that was done here was being by the spectators in the galleries and lobbies; and for that very reason I thought it unnecessary to have any committee of investigation on the subject. I do not see the necessity of investigation, or what is to be gained by it. Every body knows what was done, and I suppose the reporters for the Senate, have written down what was said. Then what is the use of an investigation? I do not attach as much importance as others seem to do to this matter; for, really, I did not apprehend there was any danger. I have never seen a case so perfectly safe as this. On the subject of the dignity of the Senate, although one of its youngest members, I feel as much interest as any man, and in my short service I believe I have never committed any breach of the peace, or of the rules of order, and I trust I never shall. If I have difficulties of this character to settle, I will certainly seek to settle them in Kentucky.

The resolution proposed by Mr. MANGUM was then adopted.

Mr. MANGUM. I hope it will be entered upon the Journal as having passed unanimously.

Mr. MANGUM. I move that the Chair appoint the committee, with this remark, that I have no purpose to serve in it myself.

It was accordingly ordered that the Chair appoint the committee.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. President, it is always very unpleasant to me to differ with the President of the Senate. I will comply my object equally as well in any other way, I will withdraw my motion, and move, by way of amendment to the various propositions of the Senator from Missouri, the very amendment which the Senate has before adopted to-day.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair does not understand the motion of the Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. CLAY. The Senator from Missouri offers to except California; the Senator from Missouri offers fourteen instructions as an amendment to that motion; and I now move as an amendment to the instructions proposed by the Senator from Missouri, proposing an amendment which I before offered to-day, and which was adopted.

Mr. FOOTE. Mr. President, I have one remark to make in conclusion of the speech which I was making some time ago, when I was interrupted. I have but a single topic more to discuss.

Mr. BUTLER. I trust my friend will give way, so that I can move an amendment.

Mr. FOOTE. I certainly think it would be improper in me to give way without concluding, unless my friends think it better that I should postpone my remarks till to-morrow.

Several Senators. Yes, yes.

Mr. FOOTE. I am glad to hear that. When—

On motion of Mr. BUTLER, the Senate adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1850.

Mr. STURGEON, from the Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred the numerous memorials and resolutions of State Legislatures, asking the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau at Washington, reported what was done, and an Agricultural Bureau in the Department of the Interior; which was read and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. BORLAND submitted the following resolution: Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire as to the propriety of establishing a mail route from Bark, in Franklin county, via Brawley's, Grand Prairie, and Robert Moffat's, in Scott county, to Booneville, in Scott county, Arkansas.

Resolved further, That the same committee be instructed to inquire as to the propriety of extending the mail route from Camden, Arkansas, via Buena Vista and Seminary, in Ouachita county, California, in Nevada, connected with the disaster of Union Creek, to Humboldt, California, via the same route.

Resolved further, That the same committee be instructed to inquire as to the propriety of establishing a mail route from Seely, in White county, to Clinton, in Van Buren county, in Arkansas.

Mr. FELCH, in pursuance of notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to create the office of surveyor general of the public lands in Oregon; to provide for the survey of those lands, and to make donations to settlers thereon; which was read a first time by title, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. BENTON, in pursuance of notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a joint resolution in relation to the use of American water ratted hemp in the navy of the United States; which was read the first and second time by its title and referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

THE DISORDER OF YESTERDAY.

The VICE PRESIDENT announced the following as the special committee under the resolution adopted yesterday: Messrs. DOUGLAS, of Wisconsin, WESTER, KING, PHILIPS, ROCK, BELL, and SHIELDS.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. President, for reasons personal to myself, growing out of the relations subsisting between one of the gentlemen connected with the disorder of yesterday, I ask the Senate to excuse me from serving on the committee appointed to investigate that occurrence. As the President is authorized to supply any vacancies that may occur, I trust that my request will be considered as reasonable, and that the Senate will relieve me from serving on the committee.

Mr. FOOTE. I understand the Senator from Wisconsin as alluding not to myself but to the other gentleman, and therefore I beg leave to say, that, so far as I am concerned, I prefer that he should be on the committee to any other man in America.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I am very thankful to the gentleman for the kind remark he has expressed for me, but must say that it is a matter for myself to decide. A feeling of delicacy renders me unwilling to be placed in that position. I do trust that, for the reasons I have suggested, the Senate will excuse me from serving on the committee.

Mr. SHIELDS. I have not before been informed of my appointment on the committee, and I must beg leave most respectfully to decline serving.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is first on the decision of the Senator from Wisconsin, to be excused from serving on the committee.

The motion was agreed to, and the Senator from Wisconsin was excused from serving on the committee.

Mr. SHIELDS. I am glad to hear that the Senator has declined to serve. I am one of the youngest Senators in the body, and I believe this committee should be composed of the elder members. I am almost entirely unacquainted with parliamentary rules, and I have not had time to ascertain my duty in this respect. I know of course that there was an infringement yesterday, not only of the laws of this body, but of every deliberative body, but I beg the Senate to place on the committee some gentleman who has been longer a member of the Senate, and who is acquainted with parliamentary rules and the proceedings of the body.

Mr. TURNER. It is painful to vote against excusing any Senator from serving on this committee, but we all know that this is a committee on which every member would desire to be excused from serving. It is a duty which some of the Senators will have to perform. The duty of making the appointment was, by order of the Senate, devolved upon the Chair, and I think the Chair has made a most judicious selection. Reasons were assigned by the Senator from Wisconsin personal to himself, that I thought, perhaps, were sufficient, and I therefore did not object to excusing him; but I do think that upon a committee of this description, after it has been constituted, no one ought to be excused from serving, and I know of no other reason. I shall, therefore, vote against excusing the Senator from Illinois.

The question being taken, the Senate refused to excuse the Senator from Illinois (Mr. STURGEON) from serving on the committee.

Mr. RUSK. After the vote on the request of the Senator from Illinois, I was deterred from making the same request, but I feel it my duty to do so. In the first place, the Senator from Illinois, I may say a young member of the Senate, and the whole course of my life has thrown me away from an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the rules which govern deliberative bodies, and I am therefore wanting the necessary intelligence and information upon questions of that nature. There is another reason, which is one of very considerable importance, and that is, my duties on other committees, to which it is not necessary to allude, are of such a nature that I cannot leave the Senate to-day, and I think the importance of the matter demands it. I am too young a man to be engaged in a matter of this description, and it seems to me the occurrence is of such a nature as to require upon the committee gentlemen of experience, whose decision would have consequences and weight. It will be impossible for me to give the attention to the matter which I think it demands, and I therefore hope and trust that the Senate will, under the circumstances, excuse me.

The question being taken, the Senate refused to excuse the Senator from Texas (Mr. RUSK) from serving upon the committee.

THE CALIFORNIA BILL.

Mr. BENTON. I move that all the previous orders be passed for the purpose of bringing up Senate bill No. 169, for the admission of the State of California into the Union. And upon that motion I ask the yeas and nays.

Mr. FOOTE. I wish merely to suggest—what I would not do if I supposed the fact was known to the Senator from Kentucky, in whose hands I am willing to leave the matter, is that I should not have suggested it. I cannot say that I am not a young man to be engaged in a matter of this description, and it seems to me the occurrence is of such a nature as to require upon the committee gentlemen of experience, whose decision would have consequences and weight. It will be impossible for me to give the attention to the matter which I think it demands, and I therefore hope and trust that the Senate will, under the circumstances, excuse me.

The question being taken, the Senate refused to excuse the Senator from Texas (Mr. RUSK) from serving upon the committee.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday, being the resolutions submitted by the honorable Senator from Tennessee (Mr. BELL), and by the honorable Senator from Kentucky (Mr. CLAY), and the motion to refer them to a select committee.

Mr. FOOTE. I simply wish to say a purpose which I have no doubt will gratify gentlemen on all sides, sincerely and profoundly desirous of action, practical action, on the proposition before the Senate, in which the country feels so deep an interest. I shall waive any feelings merely of a personal nature, and of course, I shall not be able to do so. I desire, therefore, saying not another word; I only ask for an early vote.

Mr. MANGUM. I will inquire whether the appeal from the decision of the Chair yesterday has been withdrawn? If it has not, I hope it will be.

Mr. CLAY. It has not, it is not so stated on the Journal?

Mr. MANGUM. It is not, I believe, so stated on the Journal.

Mr. CLAY. Will the Senator allow me to inquire of the Chair whether it is not so stated on the Journal?

The VICE PRESIDENT. It does not appear on the Journal.

Mr. CLAY. Then, sir, without any change of my own opinion, thinking as I did when I made the appeal, I withdraw it, with a view to facilitate action.

Mr. MANGUM. I am gratified that the Senator has withdrawn the appeal, and I am glad to hear that he always unpleasant to come in collision with any decision which has been made by the Chair.

While I am up, sir, I will remark that I hope we shall vote upon all these propositions. I hope the full latitude will be given by our friends to discussion, and when that discussion is ended, the result will be taken, and I hope that those who have voted with the majority upon these questions hitherto, will give an answer only by yeas or nays; and if any matter should be adverted to by me hereafter I will give notice, I hope that that notice will be bestowed upon it at a future day. I simply wish to say that the action of the Senate upon these very important questions, will be a landmark in the history of this body, and I hope that it will be a landmark in the history of the whole of this matter at the earliest day.

Mr. CLAY. I rise to express my hearty concurrence in the sentiments expressed by the Senator from North Carolina, and I am glad to hear that the committee will give no instructions whatever to the committee. I propose propositions now before the Senate are to reverse this decision of the Senate—to detach California, and to give instructions which the Senate has declared it will not do. But if the gentlemen choose to persevere in this course, I concur heartily in the object of the Senator from North Carolina, and I am to exempt ourselves, (I mean those who co-operate together upon this subject) from any portion of the responsibility which may arise out of the further protraction and delay of this subject.

Mr. KING. I wish to say one word. The amendment that was offered by the Senator from Maine was received by the Chair. I thought then, and stated so at the time, that it was not in order; that that proposition made by the Senator from Maine had been disposed of by a solemn vote of the Senate.

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seem to have made some progress, and the way seems to have been entirely cleared for me to make the motion which I suggested to me by the gentleman on the other side. I asked to take up the California bill; it was objected to because there was unfinished business. It was objected to because the business of yesterday ought to take precedence. Good; I have nothing to say against that. The unfinished business has been taken up, and the objection of "unfinished business" is removed. And now I act upon the suggestion of the gentleman on the other side of the chamber, and move, though it involves a double motion, to lay this question upon the table for the purpose of taking up the California bill; and, as the gentleman gave me a program of the manner in which they will act, I will give you mine. My programme is this: That, if this bill be taken up, as I suppose it may be, in conformity to the suggestion of the gentleman opposite, and after the reasons given for not taking it up have passed away, my course will be, if gentlemen on the other side of the chamber will permit, to propose a resolution, and further measures to that bill—of attaching other bills to that bill, or, if I have said enough already to let the Senate know that I am what is called uncompromisingly opposed to it; and if I have given as many reasons for my opposition as can be necessary, now, therefore, I am willing to content myself with the resolution of "no action," and I propose that we take measures to the California bill when it comes up. Now, sir, my opinion is, that in this way we can finish the California bill in this sitting to-day, while the six gentlemen are here who will be absent next week by order of the Senate. We are now all for action; we are now all for speedy action, and the only way to get the bill passed is to get it passed to-day. I propose, therefore, that we take a single amendment intended to be made or thought of to the California bill, that is not in the minds of members at this time, and which cannot be offered here at once in the progress of the bill through this body. I think, then, sir, that we can finish the whole through this afternoon's sitting, and I propose that we take a single amendment intended to be made or thought of to the California bill, that is not in the minds of members at this time, and which cannot be offered here at once in the progress of the bill through this body. 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